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the side smooth, obtuse, a little exceeding the flowering glume which is smooth, ovate-oblong, obtuse, the sides united to the middle or above, the awn from near the base, 2 or 3 times as long as its glume, bent at the middle.

Grows on dry rocks, at Oak Bay, Vancouver Island.

Collected by Prof. John Macoun.

This species has a close resemblance to the preceding, but seems sufficiently marked by the difference in the leaves and sheaths and in the details of the flowers.

ALOPECURUS GENICULATUS, var. *ROBUSTUS*.—Culms geniculate below, thick, simple or branching at the lower joints, 1 to 1½ ft. long, smooth; culm leaves 4 or 5, nodes black, smooth, sheaths loose and inflated, 3 to 5 inches long, the lower longer than the internodes, blade 3 to 6 inches long, 3 lines wide, ligule 2 lines long, acute; spike 2 to 3 inches long, 3 to 4 lines wide, cylindrical, dense, exserted when mature; spikelets little more than 1 line long, nearly half as wide; empty glumes little united below, the keels and lateral glumes ciliate-pubescent, obtuse and denticulate at the apex; flowering glume nearly equal to the empty ones, ovate-oblong, obtuse, smooth, the sides united to the middle, awn from the middle, slender and little exceeding the glume.

We have specimens from Alaska. Mr. J. Macoun collected it in Vancouver Island in 1875 and again during the present season.

ALOPECURUS CALIFORNICUS.—Under this name I indicate several forms from California and Oregon which have been referred to *A. pratensis*. They differ from that species in having smaller spikelets (about 1½ lines long instead of from 2 to 3), the empty glumes only slightly united at the base (one-fourth to one-fifth in *A. pratensis*), and obtuse or obtusish (not acute as in *A. pratensis*) at the apex. In the different forms there is considerable difference in the length and thickness of the spike, and in the height and thickness of the culm. Further study of these forms is needed.

Re-discovery of *Nymphæa elegans*, Hook., at a new Station.

In June, 1849, "in a pond near the head of the Leona" river, Dr. Charles Wright collected a number of specimens of a rare and beautiful water-lily. These were doubtfully referred by Dr.

Gray to *Nymphæa Mexicana*, Zucc. One of the specimens, however, was sent to Sir William Hooker, and the plant raised from seed accompanying it Hooker described and figured as a new species under the name of *Nymphæa elegans*. Before or since, except a single doubtful specimen, collected by Berlandier near Palo Alto, Mexico, the native plant has never been reported. Neither Lindheimer, Fendler, nor any other Texan collector or botanist, has ever detected it,* and *Nymphæa elegans* has stood for nearly forty years in the North American flora on the strength of a single collection at a single vaguely described station on the broad prairies of Southwestern Texas.

These preliminary remarks are necessary to explain the unusual interest attached to some specimens of *Nymphæa* received the past autumn, almost simultaneously, from two correspondents† at Waco, in east central Texas. Upon the first inspection I took these for a small form of *N. odorata*, approaching the variety *minor*. Closer examination showed two strong marks of distinction. The seeds were globular instead of oblong, and the sepals were very distinctly marked with slender, broken, longitudinal brown lines. Reference to the check-list and the Columbia College herbarium led me directly to *N. elegans*, of which I could find no specimen in the herbarium, but, instead, a memorandum slip stating that this species has petals "tipped with blue." Examination as to this point showed a single petal, with a distinct bluish tip; the others were so faded that the original color could not be ascertained. I then consulted the *Plantæ Wrightianæ*, and found my plants agreeing closely with Wright's in the few particulars there noted, such as the size, slenderness, shape of leaf, and particularly the globular, smooth seeds. The prominent sepal markings, however, were unmentioned. After long search, I discovered in Walpers' *Annales*, Vol. III., a specific description, and was more than pleased to find the brown-lined sepals ("sep. fusco-lineatis") especially mentioned. The petals were described as white with a purple-blue tinge ("pet. albis purpureo-cœruleo-

*Dr. Sereno Watson is my authority for this statement.—E. E. S.

†It is an act of justice to name the two ladies, both enthusiastic observers of the flora of their region, who were thus instrumental in the re-discovery of *N. elegans*. They are Miss Sarah A. Trimble and Miss M. Judith Wright, the latter now of Lorena, Texas.—E. E. S.

tinctis"). The identification appeared to me tolerably certain, but to make assurance doubly sure, I dispatched to Waco a particular inquiry as to the color of the fresh blossoms. The reply ran in this satisfactory manner: "The tips to the petals of the water-lily were decidedly purplish; the half-open buds were deep lavender, lighter at the base. The lines on the sepals are purple instead of brown. The plant is plentiful in one place near Waco." Upon the whole, therefore, I feel fully justified in announcing the re-discovery, after nearly forty years, of one of the rarest and most beautiful plants in the whole North American flora.

E. E. STERNS.

Botanizing in the Strait of Magellan.

BY W. E. SAFFORD, U. S. N.

The latitude of Cape Virgin, at the eastern entrance to the Strait of Magellan, is $32^{\circ} 20'$ south, or only two hundred miles farther away from the Equator than the boundary line between the northwestern portion of our country and British Columbia. The distance in a straight line between the eastern and western extremities of the strait is two hundred and forty miles; but, owing to the crookedness of the channel, which is somewhat V-shaped, the length of the route which a vessel must travel in passing through it is a little greater than three hundred miles. The climate of the region, though remarkably mild, if compared with that of the same latitude on the east coast of North America, differs but little from that of the corresponding region on the west coast, either in its equable temperature or its excessive dampness. Snow and hail often fall even in mid-summer, yet this is owing to the effect of the high snow-capped mountains of the region upon the moisture-laden winds from the west. The average temperature of the winter months is higher than the freezing point of water, although, of course, the thermometer often falls much below this.

Shortly after leaving the estuary of the Plata we encountered large floating patches of the giant kelp, *Macrocystis pyrifera*, which plainly indicated a current from the south. This species, so abundant on the Pacific coast of the United States, is the most common alga in the Strait of Magellan and in the chan-